

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2005. With this response, claims 1-5 and 7-25 are amended, claim 6 is canceled and new claims 25 and 27 are added. The title has been amended. All pending claims 1-5 and 7-27 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

Initially, Applicant notes that in the original claims, a duplicate claim 2 was provided. With this response, the claims have been renumbered accordingly to correct this error.

In the Office Action, a number of claims were rejected based upon the Fragnito et al. (U.S. Patent 5,706,007). Additionally, claims 15 and 24 were rejected based upon Fragnito in view of Burns (U.S. Patent 6,047,222) and claim 6 was rejected based upon Fragnito in view of Larson (U.S. Patent 6,014,612). It is believed that the amended claims are patentably distinct from these references. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The device described in Fragnito is simply a multiplexer circuit with an A/D converter in which one of three different connections is selected through the multiplexer 41, converted into a digital format by analog to digital converter 43 and provided to a main circuit board 2. The main circuit board 2 then couples to a bus 8.

Amended independent claims 1, 17 and 19 are patentably distinct from the Fragnito reference. These claims include a first pair of electrical connections for coupling to a two-wire process variable transmitter through a two-wire process control current loop and a second pair of electrical connections configured to couple to an analog voltage input channel of a process device. Fragnito shows no second pair of electrical connections. For this reason, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Additionally, the independent claims include a first electrical component configured to couple to a digital communicator. This also is not shown by Fragnito. Further still, the independent claims state that the connection to the digital communicator provides a connection for digital communication between the digital communicator and the two-wire process variable transmitter. Fragnito shows no such configuration.

The independent claims also describe a second electrical component connected between the second pair of electrical connections for communication with the voltage input channel of the process device with an analog voltage related to the analog current level on the two-wire process control loop. This is not shown in Fragnito.

The independent claims also describe a switch connected with the first electrical component to selectively allow digital communication by the digital communicator through the first electrical component with the two-wire process variable transmitter. This also is not shown by Fragnito.

As most of the elements of the independent claims are not shown by Fragnito, it is believed that the rejections should be withdrawn. Further, Applicant notes that the dependent claims add numerous configuration which, when read in the context of the claims from which they depend, are also not shown or suggested by Fragnito or the other two references. Therefore, it is believed that these claims are also independently allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Judson K. Champlin, Reg. No. 34,797
Suite 1400 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

JKC:rev:lrs